

Message Text

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46

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 (ISO) W

----- 113324

R 201327Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1241

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 3453

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: SANTA FE POLICE SURROUND CONGRESS

1. ABOUT 100 MEMBERS OF SANTA FE PROVINCIAL POLICE SURROUNDED THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ON MAY 15 AS THE LOWER HOUSE WAS IN SESSION, AND REFUSED TO ALLOW ANYONE TO LEAVE OR ENTER THE BUILDING. THIS ACTION WAS MOTIVATED BY THE FACT THAT THE DEPUTIES INSIDE WERE DEBATING A PROPOSAL TO MODIFY THE ORGANIZATION OF THE POLICE FORCE. THE MOST OBJECTIONABLE ARTICLE WAS APPARENTLY ONE WHICH WOULD ALLOW ANY CITIZEN TO BE APPOINTED CHIEF OF POLICE. THE EXISTING LAW REQUIRED THE CHIEF'S JOB TO BE FILLED BY A HIGH-RANKING MILITARY OFFICER.

2. THE MEASURE WAS APPROVED, HOWEVER, DESPITE THE PRESSURE FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE POLICE AND OVER THE OPPOSITION OF MOST OF THE NON-PERONIST DEPUTIES. THE SENATE APPROVED IT THE FOLLOWING DAY AND THE POLICE CHIEF, ENRIQUE ZABACAIN, PROMPTLY SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION. SANTA FE GOVERNOR BEGNIS REFUSED TO INTERVENE IN THE AFFAIR, SAYING IT WAS A PARLIAMENTARY PROBLEM. INTERIOR MINISTER ROCAMORA TERMED ACTIONS BY PROTESTING POLICEMEN AS "SUBVERSIVE."

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3. COMMENT. FEAR ON PART OF AT LEAST SOME OF POLICE

WAS APPARENTLY THAT SOMEONE TO THEIR DISLIKING WOULD
BE APPOINTED CHIEF, SUCH AS A FEDERAL POLICE OFFICIAL.
THE WAY IS NOW OPEN FOR THIS TO HAPPEN. ONE NAME
BEING MENTIONED IS THAT OF FORMER CORDOBA POLICE
CHIEF GARCIA REY.
HILL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, POLICE FORCES, PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURES
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Draft Date: 20 MAY 1975
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: woolflhd
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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